

NIH Labor-Management Cooperation Council Meeting
Thursday, October 16, 2003

Attendees: Howie Hochman, Rick Gomez, Clyde Bartz, Bill Jirles (by telephone), Arturo Giron, Charles Palmer, Jessica Aquilino, Linda Tarlow, Rita Sweeney

Facilitator: Fern Kaufman

Old Business: Minutes of August 21, 2003 meeting were reviewed and approved.

New Business:

A-76 Update: Mr. Rick Gomez stated that the extramural study has been awarded. The MEO won. The last day to file for appeals was October 15. April 1, 2004 is the date NIH is looking at for the transition to the MEO.

The cost comparison for Real Property Management is on schedule. The announcement is scheduled for October 22, 2003. Ms. Linda Tarlow asked if the MEO wins on Real Property Management and there is an appeal by outside bidder what would happen. Mr. Gomez said he would assume that NIH would move forward with the transition while the appeal is pending. Mr. Charles Palmer asked how long it takes for an appeal to be decided. Mr. Gomez was not sure.

Mr. Gomez said they are still trying to determine what is in scope for '04. NIH is in the pre-planning process for Firefighters. Mr. Bill Jirles told Mr. Gomez that he had heard that the Research Fellows are not going to be reviewed under the '04 study. Mr. Gomez said that it is not definite yet that the Research Fellows are out of the study but it is being considered. Steering Committee has not said it's off.

Mr. Jirles heard quotas would be reduced to 5,000 by 2012. Mr. Gomez said these figures are not set in stone. Outsourcing "green plan" has several possible options; 2012 with 5,000 FTE, and 2014 with 4,000 FTE. The number studied would be lesser each year. These figures apply only if 100% studied commercially competitive. Mr. Gomez mentioned that if Research Fellows go off the table, he cannot say others will be off. Mr. Jirles was asked to e-mail Mr. Gomez with any questions he has. Grants MEO end result is that 40/50 employees will be in transition. Mr. Gomez stated that NIH is hoping to move toward a policy that is fluid as population at NIH changes.

Since there were lots of transition questions, Bill Fitzsimmons will be asked to speak at the next meeting.

Use of Official Time by Union for A-76 Related Activities: Mr. Richard Laubach and the Firefighters were not present at the meeting. Ms. Tarlow mentioned that when A-76 started, Mr. Leonard Taylor told Mr. Laubach that work AFGE does for A-76 would not count against bank. AFGE has used about 500 hours of official time that was not charged

against their bank of hours. Mr. Arturo Giron said that he feels there are two separate types of A-76 work. He distinguishes between official time used to participate in MEO and all other time. Mr. Giron does not feel there will be a problem with the Firefighters. AFGE contract is the only contract with the number of hours so this issue is peculiar to AFGE and is not appropriate for partnership. Mr. Tarlow will talk with Mr. Taylor about this issue.

Flextime Work Schedules as it Relates to Parking: This topic was submitted by Mr. Laubach but he was not present. Ms. Tarlow explained what Mr. Laubach meant by this topic. AFGE 2419 work schedules are not appropriate for Partnership and should be discussed with AFGE.

Miscellaneous Issues:

Telework – Ms. Jessica Aquilino told the committee that there is a new policy that is being reviewed by the Executive Officers. Certain positions will not be able to participate in this program. This policy will be employee friendly. Once approved, Ms. Alisa Green would be happy to come to discuss the policy with the committee.